



News Release

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For More Information:

Dena Potter

Director of Communications

Office: (804) 786-0282

Mobile: (804) 356-5508

dena.potter@dgs.virginia.gov

DGS Director Joe Damico Wins Prestigious National Walton Leadership Award

CORONADO, California – The Department of General Services (DGS) announced today that the National Association of State Chief Administrators (NASCA) has awarded DGS Director Joe Damico the association's 2021 National Walton Leadership Award. The highly competitive national award recognizes a state Chief Administrator for their passion, outstanding service, leadership and commitment to state government.

Damico received the award during a luncheon at NASCA's 2021 Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Summit in Coronado, California.

"Director Damico shows true innovation and leadership in state government operations and NASCA is honored to award him with the association's most prestigious annual award," said **Pam Goins, Executive Director of the National Association of State Chief Administrators**. "Joe continued to implement and make significant progress on DGS' ongoing projects and strategic goals with excellence while simultaneously executing solutions to the pandemic very successfully."

Damico has served as Director of DGS since 2018, appointed to lead the agency after serving as its Deputy Director for 16 years. His vast experience with the agency allowed DGS to thrive under his leadership during an extremely challenging period for Virginia's capital city and the nation. Through all the challenges, Joe has remained committed to his DGS coworkers and the citizens his agency serves. His passion, outstanding service, and commitment to state government operations make him truly deserving of the National Walton Leadership Award.

NASCA pointed to Damico's work transforming Virginia's historic Capitol Square through construction and renovation projects, the addition of monuments and enhancements to infrastructure; his agency's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and his focus on security at the seat of government as evidence of his commitment to state government excellence. Read [NASCA's full announcement here](#).

"Joe Damico is exemplary in his leadership of DGS and his commitment to serving Virginia's citizens," said **Virginia Secretary of Administration Grindly Johnson**. "His wealth of knowledge and experience in state government, along with his successful management of DGS, makes him someone who can be counted on to solution any challenge. If Joe is overseeing it, I know we are in good hands."

Damico manages more than 600 employees responsible for the renovation and construction of state-owned facilities; implementing procurement policy to comply with the Virginia Public Procurement Act; analytical public health laboratory services; the buying, selling and leasing of real estate; the management of a statewide vehicle fleet; distribution of state and federal surplus property; the graphic communications needs of state agencies; and the delivery of mail at the seat of government.

Damico has three decades of professional management experience in state government and the private sector. He also served both active duty and in the reserves in the U.S. Army, Medical Service Corps, achieving the rank of Captain.

Damico received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics/Computer Science from Longwood College, a Master of Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, a Master of Science in Health Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia, and is a graduate of the Virginia Executive Institute.

The National Walton Leadership Award was established to recognize state Chief Administrators for their passion, outstanding service, leadership and commitment to state government. The award was created to honor Ray Walton for his service and dedication to state government and to NASCA. Ray Walton served as the Executive Director for NASCA from February 2011 through February 2015 and the former Director and Chief Operating Officer for the Iowa Department of Administrative Services.

ABOUT NASCA

The National Association of State Chief Administrators (NASCA) is the leading organization advancing professional development and best management solutions for the administrative functions of state government. The association provides state chief administrators with the opportunity to increase their knowledge of state government administration through education, networking and information exchange on state government trends, leading edge innovations, standards and best practices.

NASCA's mission is to help state chief administrators and their teams strategically transform state government operations through the power of shared knowledge and thought leadership. For more information about NASCA's Awards Program, please visit www.nasca.org.

For more information about DGS, visit dgs.virginia.gov.

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